

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1175

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3166

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, UNRWA, XF, SREF

SUBJ: FFP: PL-480/ TITLE II SUBMISSIONS FOR FY 1974- UNRWA

REF: STATE 050205

1. FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANCE OUR A-48 OF MARCH 1, AS REQUESTED REFTEL.
2. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AID/ W APPROVAL OF AER' S SUBMITTED BY UNRWA FOR FY 1974. THEY COVER AGENCY' S MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS OF NFD, WSB AND BULGUR FOR USE IN ITS SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM, WHICH PROTECTS NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS AMONG PALESTINIAN REFUGEES -- E. G., THOSE IN AGE OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT (INFANTS, PRE- SCHOOL AND SCHOOL CHILDREN), PREGNANT AND NURSING WOMEN, TUBERCULOUS OUTPATIENTS, SELECTED MEDICAL CASES, AND CERTAIN ESPECIALLY NEEDY PERSONS. END SUMMARY.
3. SCOPE OF UNRWA' S SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM OUTLINED PARAS. 47-53, 85 AND 97 OF COMGEN' S ANNUAL REPORT TO UNGA FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1972 (COPIES AVAILABLE IO/ UNP AND NEA/ IAI). HOWEVER, AGENCY SUBSEQUENTLY WAS FORCED MAKE CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS IN THIS PROGRAM AS RESULT OF GROWING SHORTAGES OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES, NOTABLY NFD, RECEIVED FROM DONOR GOVTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD BE NOTED THAT QUANTITIES OF NFDM WHICH UNRWA IS REQUESTING FROM USG IN FY 1974 REPRESENT EFFORT BY AGENCY TO ELIMINATE ITS DEPENDANCE ON THIS COMMODITY IN ALL PORTIONS OF ITS SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM SAVE VULNERABLE MCH CATEGORY. AT SAME TIME, UNRWA FULLY AWARE OF LIMITATIONS ON USG' S ABILITY TO SUPPLY NFDM IN FY 1974. AGENCY WILL THEREFORE GLADLY ACCEPT WHATEVER LESSER QUANTITIES OR " SUBSTITUTE" COMMODITIES MAY BE ASSIGNED TO IT AND WILL HAVE TO TAILOR ITS FEEDING PROGRAM ACCORDINGLY.

4. QUANTITIES OF WSB WHICH UNRWA IS REQUESTING FROM USG IN FY 1974 ARE TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR CSM CURRENTLY USED IN AGENCY' S SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM. MOST OF IT UTILIZED IN BREAD FORM AS PART OF THAT PROGRAM' S HOT- MEAL OPERATION, UNDER WHICH NUTRITIONALLY- BALANCED MEALS ARE PROVIDED AT SPECIAL FEEDING CENTERS 6 DAYS PER WEEK TO ALL REFUGEE CHILDREN UP TO AGE 6, ON MEDICAL SELECTION TO CHILDREN AGED 6-15, AND TO SMALL NUMBER OF SICK ADULTS. SOME WSB/ CSM (AND ALL U. S.- DONATED BULGUR) ALSO GOES INTO HOT MEALS THEMSELVES. IN ADDITION, 500 GRAMS WSB/ CSM ARE MADE AVAILABLE EACH MONTH TO ALL REFUGEE CHILDREN IN 6-10 AGE GROUP AND TO CERTAIN ESPECIALLY NEEDY CATEGORIES AMONG REFUGEES DISPLACED SINCE 1967 AND LIVING IN OR NEAR EMERGENCY CAMPS IN SYRIA AND EAST JORDAN.

5. COMMODITIES REQUESTED IN AER' S SUBMITTED BY UNRWA FOR FY 1974 REPRESENT VITAL ELEMENTS IN SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM THAT MAKES UP DOLS 2.5 MILLION OF AGENCY' S DOLS 54.5 MILLION OPERATING BUDGET IN CY 1973. THEIR LOSS WOULD SEVERELY CURTAIL SIZE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS VALUABLE PROGRAM AND FURTHER EXACERBATE UNRWA' S PRESSING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AID/ W APPROVAL.
BUFFUM

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